

Victim Associations And Coalitions

Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims

Crisis Phone: 1-800-346-7555 – OR –
www.healthsupportcenter.org/ffvcv.shtml

Washington State Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

1-888-726-6233 – OR – www.maddwashington.org

National Crime Victim Bar Association

(703) 276-0960 – OR – www.victimbar.org

Northwest Women's Law Center

(206) 682-9552 – OR – (206) 621-7691 Legal
Information Line – OR – www.nwwlc.org

The Children's Alliance

(206) 324-0340 – OR – www.childrensalliance.org

Washington Alliance for the Mentally Ill

1-800-782-9264 – OR – www.nami-wami.com

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

(360) 753-2175

Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

(360) 753-7583 – OR – www.wcsap.org

Washington Protection and Advocacy System (WPAS)

1-800-562-2702 – OR – www.wpas-rights.org

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(206) 389-2515 – OR – www.wscadv.org

State Government Services For Victims

Crime Victims Compensation

Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)

1-800-762-3716 – OR – www1.ni.wa.gov/insurance/CrimeVictims/

Domestic Violence Hot Line

1-800-562-6025 – OR – www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/victimservices

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy

Department of Community Development

1-800-822-1067 – OR – www.ocva.wa.gov

Victim/Witness Notification Program (DSHS)

1-800-422-1536 – OR – www.wa.gov/dshs/VictimWitness

Washington State Address Confidentiality Program

1-800-822-1065 – OR – www.secstate.wa.gov/acp

If you are a family member and victim of a mentally ill offender you may have additional issues and concerns. There are support services and resources available through the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) at 1-800-950-6264.

State Mental Hospitals

Western State Hospital

Western State Hospital is a fully accredited psychiatric hospital that provides inpatient psychiatric services for people with acute and chronic mental illness, offenders with mental illness, and geriatric patients. It is the second oldest state institution, founded in 1871. The hospital, located in Lakewood, now includes 56 buildings with 32 wards on 264 acres. It is the largest state-operated psychiatric hospital west of the Mississippi River. The hospital has a patient capacity of approximately 830.

Eastern State Hospital

Eastern State Hospital is a fully accredited psychiatric hospital that provides inpatient psychiatric services for people with acute and chronic mental illness, offenders with mental illness, and geriatric patients. The hospital, located in the city of Medical Lake in Spokane County, has a capacity of 319 patients.

In Each Hospital

There are three clinical units: the Adult Psychiatric Unit (APU) serving individuals civilly committed under the state's Involuntary Treatment Act, the Geriatrics Medical Unit (GMU) for assessment and treatment of individuals 60 years of age and above, and the Center for Forensic Services (CFS) serving court-committed individuals who have special security needs.

Child Study and Treatment Center

The Child Study and Treatment Center is located on the grounds of Western State Hospital in Lakewood. Center staff provide medical, psychological, behavioral assessment, and treatment services to youth with disabling mental disorders.

Mentally Ill Offenders Are Committed Under One of Two Laws

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 10.77

People committed under RCW 10.77 come to the State Hospitals either by a criminal court order for evaluation and treatment before a trial, or commitment by a criminal court following acquittal of felony charges by reason of insanity, or by civil commitment after a legal finding of not likely to regain competency to stand trial. These patients are generally housed at the Center for Forensic Services (CFS) at either Western State or Eastern State Hospitals. The CFS staff provide in-patient competency evaluations, competency restoration and treatment. The CFS facilities are secured with fences and security guards to ensure that a high degree of public safety is provided.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.05

People committed under RCW 71.05 civil commitment come to the state hospitals as a result of a Community Designated Mental Health Professional evaluation. The patient may be deemed either gravely disabled or a danger to self or others. After being committed, the patient is held for up to 72 hours for evaluation. Then the hospital may release the patient or request a hearing to hold the patient for up to 14 days. The hospital may then request permission to release the patient or request a hearing to hold the patient for up to 90 days. After the 90 days, future requests by the hospital are to hold the patient for 180 days. At any time during these commitment reviews, the court may decide to give the patient grounds privileges and permission to go into the community unsupervised.

DSHS Victim/Witness Office

Phone: (360) 902-7833

Toll-free 1-800-422-1536

Email: vwn@dshs.wa.gov



Information For Victims Of Mentally Ill Offenders

Your Rights as a Victim of a Mentally Ill Offender

Crimes perpetrated by mentally ill offenders are as traumatic and harmful to the victims as crimes committed by offenders who are incarcerated in a criminal justice facility. Additionally, these victims may not be afforded the same rights and be prohibited by law from having input into certain court hearings. The following information may assist anyone who has been a victim of a mentally ill offender.

*Knowledge
is Power*

The Department of Social and Health Services Victim/Witness Notification Program frequently gets questions regarding offenders who are committed to state mental hospitals. This brochure is intended to answer frequently asked questions and to provide resources for those victims.

- Q:

As a victim of a mentally ill offender, how can I find out when he/she is released?
- A:

You have the right to enroll for notification in the Department of Social and Health Services Victim/Witness Program. You may enroll by completing an enrollment form, which you may obtain by calling 1-800-422-1536 or contacting your local Victim Assistance Unit in your county Prosecutor’s Office. Once enrolled, you will receive notices of hearings, less restrictive placements and escapes.
- Q:

I’m afraid for my safety. What can I do to protect myself when the mentally ill offender is released?
- A:

You may want to obtain a protection or no contact order. Orders of protection cannot guarantee safety but can be an important tool toward increasing safety. To obtain a protection or no contact order contact your local county court for assistance.
- Q:

How can I get financial assistance to help pay for my counseling and medical costs associated with the crime that was committed against me?
- A:

You may be eligible for The Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP), which is a division of the State Department of Labor & Industries. CVCP assists violent crime victims with financial assistance if they have received a physical or mental health injury. To receive an application or for more information, call 1-800-762-3716.
- Q:

How can I share my concerns about a mentally ill offender who may be released?
- A:

If you would like to share your concerns regarding the possible release of a mentally ill offender from a state mental hospital, you may contact the DSHS Victim/Witness Program for assistance and details. Call 1-800-422-1536.

Definitions

Commitment

This is a determination by a court that a person should be detained for a period for either evaluation or treatment, or both, in an inpatient or a less restrictive setting.

Conditional Release (CR)

The court can allow a conditional release through a modification of a commitment order. This can be revoked upon violation of any of its terms.

County Designated Mental Health Professional (CDMHP)

This is a mental health professional appointed by the county to perform duties as specified in law.

Crime Victims Compensation

You may be eligible for The Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP), which is a division of the Department of Labor & Industries. CVCP assists victims of violent crime with financial assistance if they have received a physical or mental health injury. To receive an application or for more information call, 1-800-762-3716.

Criminally Insane

This refers to any person who has been acquitted of a crime by reason of insanity, and found to present a substantial likelihood of committing criminal acts unless kept under further control by the court or other persons or institutions.

Gravely Disabled

This defines a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental disorder: (a) is in danger of serious physical harm because they do not provide for his or her essential human needs of health or safety; or (b) experiences severe deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and escalating loss of ability to make decisions and is not receiving care that is essential for his or her health or safety.

Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA)

A court can order release of a patient to a less restrictive placement either in the community or within a mental health facility. The person may be allowed into the community without supervision.

Likelihood of Serious Harm

(a) This designation refers to a person who poses a substantial risk that: (i) physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon his or her own person, as evidenced by threats or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on oneself; (ii) physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon another, as evidenced by behavior that has caused such harm or that places another person or persons in reasonable fear of sustaining such harm; or (iii) physical harm will be inflicted by an individual upon the property of others, as evidenced by behavior which has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others; or (b) the individual has threatened the physical safety of another and has a history of one or more violent acts.

Mental Disorder

This refers to any organic, mental, or emotional impairment, that has substantial adverse effects on an individual’s cognitive or decision-making functions.

Incompetency

This refers to a person who lacks the capacity to understand the nature of the proceedings against him or her or to assist in his or her own defense as a result of mental disease or defect.

Notification

When a mentally ill offender is committed to a Department of Social and Health Services mental facility you have the right to enroll for notification on the status of that person. Once enrolled, you will receive notices of hearings, transfers to less restrictive placements, and escapes. You may enroll in the Victim/Witness Program by completing an enrollment form. You may obtain an enrollment form by calling 1-800-422-1536, requesting a form online at www1.dshs.wa.gov/legrel/victimwitness, or by contacting your local Victim Assistance Unit in your county Prosecutor’s Office.

Orders of Protection

If you are concerned with your safety when a mentally ill offender is to be released, you may want to obtain a protection or no contact order. Orders of protection cannot guarantee safety but can be an important tool toward increasing your safety. To obtain a protection or no contact order, contact your local county court for assistance.